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with appreciation and pride and admiration, the continued and growing success in service, of the great school to which we all owe much.

HENRY M. BATES.

THE MASTER OF THE OFFICES IN THE LATER ROMAN AND BYZANTINE EMPIRES, by Arthur E. R. Boak, University of Michigan. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1919, pp. x, 160.

This monograph is published as Part I, Volume XIV, of the University of Michigan Studies, Humanistic Series. It attempts to treat the entire history of the Mastership as an organ of administration, thus filling out the work of Seeck on the earlier period and of Bury on the later history of the institution. It is a supplement to the author's doctoral dissertation on the *Roman Magistri*, some of the results of which are given in the first chapter of this study. The two taken together show how the term *magister*, which has the same root as *magistratus* and *magisterium*, was taken as a title for the head of this great bureaucratic, administrative organization—created according to the author by Diocletian—instead of some derivative of the word *dominus*, which contains the concept not only of overlordship but also that of ownership. This lends credence to the author's theory that the title *magister* was first conferred by Diocletian upon the senior tribune of the Praetorian Guard. It was this emperor's policy to weaken the authority of the *praefectus praetorio*, that *alter ego* of the imperial *dominus*, and the new official would not be allowed any of the titular attributes of sovereignty, however important his bureaucratic, administrative functions might be. The author shows that this master of the great bureaucracy retained his functions almost unchanged till after the middle of the seventh century, but that during the next century he gradually lost his great powers, and that later *magister officiorum* is simply an honorary title, without administrative functions.

The work throughout is based on the original sources, with full citation and criticism of the bibliography, and with valuable appendices giving references to the title *magister* in inscriptions and in literature, and a list of the various masters of the offices, from the fourth to the twelfth century; the whole constituting a valuable contribution to the administrative law and history of the late Roman and Byzantine periods.

JOSEPH H. DRAKE.